Increasing Rabi Crop Yield

4664. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that after kharif setback agriculture Ministry is hoping to get heavy crop to offset the loss of production in the Rabi season; and

(b) the steps Government propose to increase the production in the rabi-crop in this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The southwest monsoon in 2004 was erratic with prolonged weak/break monsoon conditions prevailing during late June, most of July, late August and early September over different parts of the country. For the country as a whole, the seasonal rainfall from 1st June to 30th September was 87% of its Long Period Average (LPA). As a consequence, the agriculture Production in kharif 2004 was badly affected. As per the third Advance Estimates, the kharif foodgrain production in 2004-05 is estimated at 106.36 million tonnes which is 10.13% more than the corresponding production figure in 2003-04. In the case of oilseeds, although the Kharif production in 2004-05 declined by 12.40, the rabi production increased by 22.77% over 2003-04.

(b) An Incentive Scheme to give reward to states showing best performance in Rabi production in the 2004-05 season has been prepared by the Government. Under this scheme, the States have been divided into 5 groups, and the best performing state in each of the five groups would be rewarded with an amount of Rs. 1 crore for encouraging various officers and functionaries in achieving better Rabi production. The Government also organized the Rabi Campaign 2004-05 in September, 2004 which discussed at length the cropping plan and availability of key inputs for different rabi crops in different States. The Rabi Campaign also focused on emerging areas like horticulture and floriculture, organic farming biotechnology and market research. The Union Government urged the State Governments to ensure timely supply of quality inputs to farmers and pay serious attention to the flow of credit from banks to agriculture.